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Bruce Ratner revealed designs for "modular" buildings at Atlantic Yards. The first (far left) will rise at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue and become the world's tallest pre-fab building. Union workers would bring home far less pay under this plan.

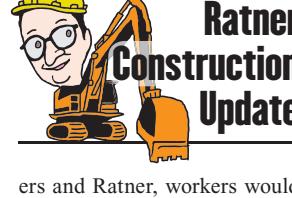
YARDS UNION HAUL

Ratner's 'pre-fabs' would hurt his labor backers

By Daniel Bush
The Brooklyn Paper

Union workers are coming to Bruce Ratner's rescue — again! — agreeing to take massive pay cuts to pave the way for the first residential building at Atlantic Yards, a cut-rate, pre-fabricated tower to rise next to the Barclays Center.

Labor unions provided crucial support for Ratner when his controversial, \$5-billion project was moving through the approval process five years ago in exchange for a promise of high-paying jobs. But the agreement currently being negotiated between union lead-



Ratner Construction Update

ers and Ratner, workers would give up millions of dollars in pay to allow the developer to move forward with the cheaper, modular building.

It is unclear how much money will be lost to laborers, but carpenters make as much as \$90 an hour in wages and benefits at real construction sites, but only \$30

per hour when working inside the kind of factory where Ratner will build the pre-fabricated units.

Many union leaders merely shrugged when asked about the pay cuts, suggesting that if the workers don't give back, the project might not go ahead, leaving laborers with no work at all.

"We are attempting to reach an agreement ... that will work for the building trades," said Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council.

A labor union source translated LaBarbera for those who

See **YARDS** on page 16



The city installed traffic cones to slow down cyclists on West Lake Drive in Prospect Park, but some are still confused about rules.

Cone rangers

City installs barriers to deter Park cyclists

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has a message for bicyclists in Prospect Park in the wake of two near-fatal crashes: Slow down!

The Department of Transportation has deployed two dozen bright orange, barrel-



MEAN Streets

The battle for Brooklyn's byways

sized cones on the park's popular roadway — where two serious collisions have occurred

in recent months — to narrow the street in hopes of retarding cyclists and warn them to brake for pedestrians.

The cones, which were installed last week on West Lake Drive, are also a symbol of a heated debate — over hazy right of way issues — that pits cyclists against walkers on the heavily trafficked street.

The city began the "pilot program" at the request of park officials to enhance safety on the downhill street, where bikers pick up speed, but then can't see beyond a curve.

"It's a hot spot with potential for conflict," said Prospect Park Alliance president Emily Lloyd. "Everyone using the park must be aware of the safety of others."

The road change comes two weeks after a 55-year-old park volunteer and frequent power walker Linda Cohen was struck by a 61-year-old cyclist in the area, leaving her so badly injured that doctors kept her in a medically induced coma to aid recovery.

Cohen wasn't the first victim: In June, 37-year-old actress Dana Jacks, who fre-

See **CONES** on page 7



Kasia Bednarska's Italian greyhound Tali is recovering from surgery.

Huge hearts for little dog

Paper story prompts donations

By Natalie O'Neill
The Brooklyn Paper

Six generous donors have covered the expensive veterinary bill of an Italian greyhound who became front page news in this paper after he was mangled by another pup in Prospect Park.

The dog-loving benefactors have funded a \$5,000 bone graft surgery to repair the leg that was broken by a pit bull-mix, who pounced on Kasia Bednarska's skinny little pup, Tali, last Monday near the boathouse.

"It's a happy ending," said Bed-

See **DOG** on page 14



Christiana Fisher gave herself a raise.

City: Vito's charity boss cooked the books

CEO gave herself, others big pay raises — then forged records

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The top official hand-picked by Assemblyman Vito Lopez to run his Bushwick charity forged documents to give her and Lopez's girlfriend massive pay

raises — and then lied about it, a bombshell city investigation charges.

Christiana Fisher, the CEO of the Lopez-founded Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, received a \$446,000 raise in

2008, bumping her already lavish \$336,000 salary to \$782,000, while Ridgewood Bushwick's housing director, Angela Battaglia, collected a \$145,000 raise in 2008, jumping her salary from \$198,000 to \$343,000.

Board documents show that the sky-high salary hikes — plus a lump-sum payment to Fisher of \$218,659 — were approved on Feb. 4, 2008. But executives at Ridgewood Bushwick testified they did not see the board documents

until nearly two years later, when Fisher sent them to be prepared with the group's federal tax returns.

In August, 2010, Fisher faxed a copy of a key tax document to her accountant that showed that the board had

OK'd the pay raises — but the document did not have any board member signatures on it.

Three weeks later, Fisher faxed another copy of that document, which suddenly contained signatures of all eight board members, to the city.

The charity's federal tax

return stated that executive pay had been reviewed, deliberated, and approved by its board and an independent committee — but several board members cast some doubt on that.

Ridgewood Bushwick's

then-chairwoman Lucy Cusimano told city investigators

See **LOPEZ** on page 7

Coal'd comfort

Grimaldi's loses oven in move

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

Grimaldi's, regarded by many as the best pizzeria in the city, is moving to a new DUMBO location, but leaving behind the key to its success: its coal oven.

The iconic Old Fulton Street pie shop will serve its final pie at its current location on Nov. 28, then open one day later open in 1 Front St., as first reported on BrooklynPaper.com.

But its coal-fired oven — one of only a few dozen left in a city once teeming with them — will remain behind, a huge home field advantage to the space's incoming, but still unnamed, restaurant.

"I love competition," Grimaldi's owner Frank Ciolfi told the New York Post, our sister publication. "Bring it on."

Oh, it's on all right. Ciolfi's landlord, Dorothy Waxman, couldn't wait to evict the 21-year-old pizzeria from its current location after Ciolfi fell far behind on his rent. Both sides went to court



Co-owner Gina Ciolfi shows off the goods with waiter Roman Sidorsky at Grimaldi's, the legendary pizzeria that will move up the block.

last August, but a judge forced Waxman to accept back payments, staving off the eviction.

But Waxman's son vowed to boot the beloved joint as soon as its lease expired on Nov. 30.

He may have known that he had an ace up his sleeve: the coal oven.

Such furnaces, which can reach

1,000 degrees and impart an im-

See **PIZZA** on page 14



"Occupier" Jenny Formerlyone rallied at Borough Hall before heading underground.

'Occupying' all over

Anti-Wall St. take the fight to the subway

By Eli Rosenberg
The Brooklyn Paper

Who needs Zuccotti?

Occupy Wall Street took its incendiary movement under-

ground at two subway stations in Brooklyn on Thursday as part of a huge day of protests celebrating the two-month anniversary of the first settlement

at a once-obscure Lower Manhattan park.

Anti-Wall Street protesters gathered at the Broadway Junc-

See **OCCUPY** on page 16

Ice creamed

Dime found in the Häagen-Dazs

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

This pint of ice cream came with cash back.

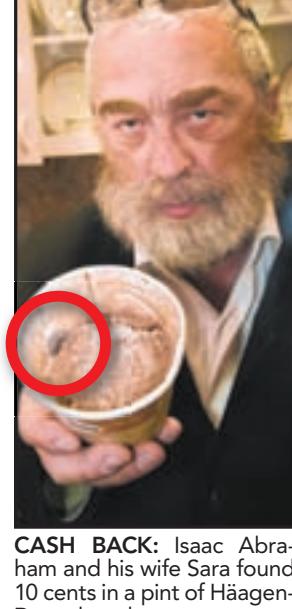
A Hasidic woman's Shabbat was spoiled after she bit into a frozen dime buried inside a container of Häagen-Dazs chocolate at her Williamsburg home on Nov. 11.

Sara Abraham purchased two containers of the delectable confection from a Kent Avenue Duane Reade store on Nov. 11, as she has done once a week since the pharmacy opened several months ago.

But by the fifth spoonful, she tasted something "metallic" — and the dime was in her mouth.

"I had a bad taste and I spat it out," said Abraham. "I felt something in my mouth and the ice cream didn't have a good taste from the start. Two hours later, I still felt a metallic taste in my mouth."

See **DIME** on page 16

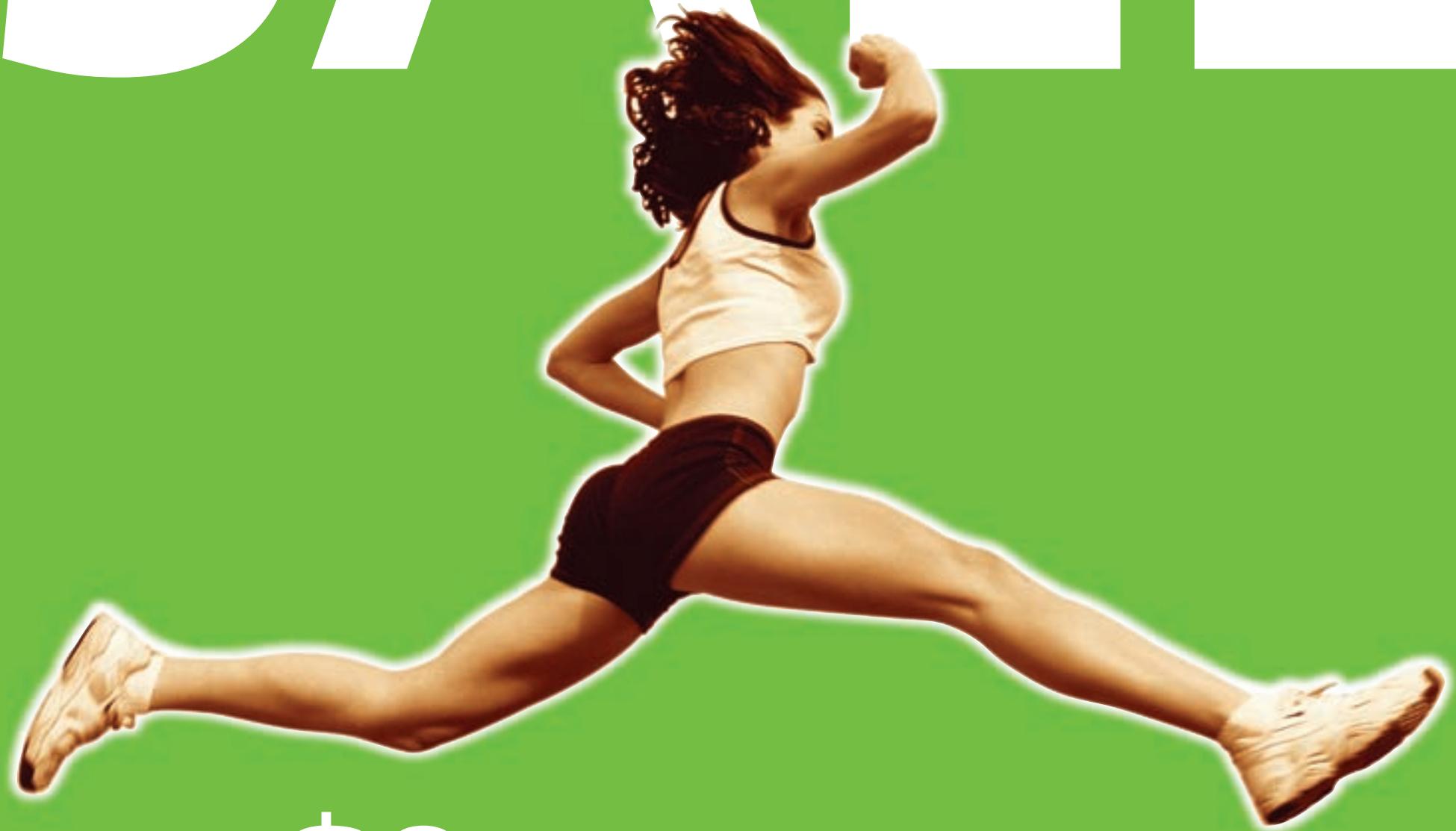


CASH BACK: Isaac Abraham and his wife Sara found 10 cents in a pint of Häagen-Dazs chocolate.



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Another iPhone is swiped

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

iPhone roam

A gun-toting criminal stole a cellphone on Sterling Place on Nov. 19.

The 51-year-old victim told cops that he was between Vanderbilt and Flatbush avenues at 10:05 pm and was removing a bag filled with his camera, tablet and iPod from his car.

That's when a geeky criminal grabbed the satchel and fled.

Fire no escape

A self-pleasuring creep scared a woman on Underhill Avenue on Nov. 21.

The 30-year-old victim told cops that she was inside her apartment between St. Johns and Sterling places at 7:55 pm when she heard a noise.

She looked outside to find a man masturbating on her fire escape.

He fled before more came of the incident.

—Eli Rosenberg

A couple of crooks stole a woman's cellphone on Vanderbilt Avenue on Nov. 18.

The 43-year-old victim told cops that she was at Park Place at 6:15 pm when some thugs took her phone and fled.

Digital dig

A tech-loving jerk stole

a bunch of electronics from

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Scoot and run

A jerk beat up a woman on Carroll Street on Nov. 14.

The 29-year-old victim told cops that she was near Fiske Place when a man on a scooter rode up and shouted, "Give it up!" He then grabbed her \$200 iPhone, pushed her down—and rode away, leaving the poor lady with cuts and scrapes.

Bed burglar

A jerk stole thousands of dollars from an apartment of Fifth Avenue on Nov. 19.

The 54-year-old victim told cops that he left his home near 14th Street at 6:30 pm, then came back the next day at 8 am. That was enough time for the crook to snatch \$20,000 from under his bed.

No windows or doors were broken.

Got school'd

A crook snatched some school supplies from a student on Fourth Avenue on Nov. 19.

The 26-year-old victim told cops that he was near 11th Street at 6:15 am when a man ran up and ripped a backpack full of books off his shoulder.

Book him

A thief stole a wallet from a customer at a book shop on Seventh Avenue on Nov. 18.

The 30-year-old victim told cops that she had set her

80TH PRECINCT

POLICE BLOTER

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wallet inside her stroller at Barnes and Noble near Sixth Street at 10:05 pm, then walked away for 20 minutes. That was enough time for the jerk to snatch her pocketbook—along with the \$11 inside.

Tuned out

A crafty crook jacked a fancy TV and more from an apartment on 15th Street on Nov. 16.

The 41-year-old victim told cops that she had locked her home near Fourth Avenue at 9 am before leaving for the day. She came back at 4:30 pm and discovered her \$1,200 flat-screen TV and \$4,000 worth of jewelry gone.

Her rear window wasajar.

Sad song

A crook jacked two musical instruments from a car parked on the quiet stretch of Flatbush Avenue near the Prospect Park Zoo on Nov. 15.

The 52-year-old victim told cops that she had locked two violins worth \$2,200 inside her 2008 Range Rover near Empire Boulevard at 9 am, then came back at 6 pm. That's when she discovered the pretty violins—and \$200 worth of clothes—gone.

—Natalie O'Neill

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside

Lock jaw

A thug clobbered a man in his head with a bike lock on Nassau Avenue on Nov. 17.

The victim and his tormentor got into an argument near Newell Street at 3 am, but the battle turned violent when the perp smashed the man in the head with a bike lock.

Lights out

Two thieves stole several lamps from a N. Eighth Street business on Nov. 9.

The perps entered the building near Bedford Avenue at 11:30 pm to steal the accessories.

Compu-crime

A thief stole a Macbook computer and some jewelry from a Manhattan Avenue home on Nov. 15.

The tenant and her three kids left the house near DuPont Street at 8 am, but when one of her kids came home at 4:30 pm, he noticed that the computer and some jewelry were missing.

Cash out

A thief stole some cash from a Wythe Avenue bakery overnight on Nov. 14.

The store owner locked up his building near N. Eighth Street at 8 pm, but when he returned at 4:15 am, he saw the door was damaged and his cash drawer was emptied.

Tools timed

A thief stole a set of tools from a car on Kent Avenue on Nov. 8.

The driver parked near N. Fourth Street at 10 am and returned five hours later to find his tools missing.

Camrys copped

At least two Toyota sedans were swiped last week:

• A thief stole one from Franklin Street near Java Street between 9 pm on Nov. 15 and 8 am the next day.

• Another Camry was swiped from Wythe Avenue near N. Fourth Street between 10:30 pm on Nov. 17 and 8:30 pm the next day.

—Aaron Short

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick

Takes two

Police caught two 13-year-old suspects after a string of thefts in South Williamsburg on Nov. 20.

The perps allegedly grabbed a woman's purse at Clymer Street near Wythe Avenue while she was waiting for a bus at 5:15 pm, then snatched a pair of glasses from a woman inside her Ross Street building near Kent Avenue at 5:30 pm, before taking another woman's purse in front of a Wythe Place building near Wilson Street 10 minutes later.

Police canvassed the area, and nabbed their suspects.

Bag job

Two gunmen threatened a woman and took her purse on Nov. 20 on Union Avenue.

The victim walked into her building near Ainslie Street at 7:30 pm, and the thugs followed her inside before one flashed a black handgun and screamed, "Give me your bag."

The victim complied.

iPhony fiend

A thief stole an iPhone from a woman on Metropolitan Avenue on Nov. 19—but gave it back just as quickly.

scored \$200, a Palm cell phone, and credit cards.

Wheel and steal

Twin thieves on bicycles snatched the iPhone from a woman on Carlton Avenue on Nov. 15.

The 23-year-old victim told cops that she was near Flushing Avenue at 10:45 pm when the freewheeling bandits approached from behind and grabbed her mobile.

Phoned it in

An Apple-hungry outlaw snatched an iPhone from a woman on Atlantic Avenue on Nov. 14.

The 24-year-old victim told cops that she was near Fourth Avenue at 7:15 pm when a stranger ripped her mobile from her hand and fled.

Knifey spoony

A burglar threatened a tenant with a knife inside his S. Second Street apartment on Nov. 19—was arrested a few hours later, cops said.

The tenant left his apartment near Marcy Avenue at 5:45 pm to walk his dog, and returned to find the alleged thief, who grabbed a knife and threatened him.

The perp fled the apartment, but an officer stopped and cuffed him, police said.

Tool time

A thief stole a saw and two drills from a Metropolitan Avenue garage on Nov. 20.

The homeowner said that he locked his garage near Leonard Street at 3 am, but when he returned five hours later, he saw the lock was broken and his stuff was gone.

Nifty necklaces

A thief stole \$1,000 worth of necklaces, a Nintendo system and \$300 from a S. Fourth Street apartment on Nov. 20.

The 54-year-old victim told cops that he parked near Myrtle Avenue at 8:15 pm. When he returned 15 minutes later, his Kenneth Cole bag, checkbook and cash were gone.

Low gear

Some thief boosted a white sedan from Park Avenue on Nov. 13—also scoring boxing equipment, prescription drugs and an MP3 player.

The 31-year-old victim told cops that he parked near N. Elliott Place at 9 pm. When he returned the next morning, his 2007 Acura was gone.

Subway bandit

A teen thief tried to steal a man's stuff on the Classon Avenue G train platform on Nov. 18—but cops caught up with the alleged would-be bandit.

The 38-year-old victim told police that he emerged from the Queens-bound subway at 10:30 pm when the young crook reached into his satchel.

The victim ran after the perp, who yelled, "Stop following me or I'll f—k you up!"

Police arrested a 17-year-old suspect shortly after.

Gate crasher

Some jerk stole a metal gate from a home on Carlton Avenue earlier this month as the owner did renovations.

The 61-year-old victim told cops that she left the residence near Green Avenue at 1 pm on Nov. 10. When she returned four days later, the \$1,500 gate was gone.

National grift

A sneaky thief broke into a Honda on Hall Street on Nov. 14—snatching credit cards and using them to buy appliances.

The 49-year-old victim from New Jersey told police that she parked near Willoughby Avenue at 4 pm and when she returned 90 minutes later, her cards, \$25 and her Green Card were missing.

She told cops that the thieves used one of her cards at an appliance store.

Game over

A heartless grifter stole a PlayStation 3 and Nintendo Wii from the Atlantic Terminal Community Center.

An employee told cops that when he left the public housing facility on Carlton Avenue on Nov. 10, he stored the consoles, controllers and games in a closet. When he

returned five days later, they were gone.

Break dance

A burglar snatched hundreds of dollars worth of tools from a Fulton Street dance studio on Nov. 14.

An employee told police that she left the parlor near Hudson Avenue at 6 pm. When she returned the next morning, a bevy of items was gone—including drills, saws, a two-line phone, and satin nickel floor bumper.

—Kate Briquelet

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Gunpoint rob

Two goons pulled a gun on a 39-year-old during a violent mugging on Baltic Street on Nov. 20.

The victim was nearing Hoyt Street at 12:30 am when the suspects approached, demanded property, then pistol-whipped him when he didn't move fast enough.

Oh, honey!

Thieves looted the Ted and Honey Café on Clinton Street on Nov. 21, taking two safes that contained more than \$9,000, an iPad and a laptop computer.

Burglars entered the eatery at Verandah Place through an unlocked basement door after workers closed for the night at 1 am. A delivery service found the side door open—and at the café ransacked—at 3 am, employees told police.

Vale villain

A thief in a bright red jacket smashed his way into a Pacific Street business on Nov. 15, taking a \$2,500 MacBook.

Witnesses told police that the thief used a brick to break the glass window to Natasha Vale Design between Henry and Clinton streets at 4:30 am.

Catfight!

Police said they arrested a 37-year-old woman who attacked a 37-year-old during a fierce Nov. 21 catfight on Columbia Street.

The two women, who knew each other, were arguing near Lorraine Street at 9:30 am when the 37-year-old spit at her opponent, then grabbed her by the hair and bit her lip—leaving her with injuries that needed medical attention.

—Thomas Tracy

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Rim jobs

Thieves stole wheels off at least two cars last week:

• Wheel bandits swiped a set of fancy rims and tires off a car on 77th Street overnight on Nov. 16. The victim told cops that she parked between Fort Hamilton Parkway and 10th Avenue at around 9 pm, but all four tires were gone the next morning.

• Thieves took two wheels from a car on Shore Road overnight on Nov. 14. The victim said that she had left her Audi between 98th and 99th streets at 9 pm, but they were gone by 7 the next morning.

Sneak thief

Th

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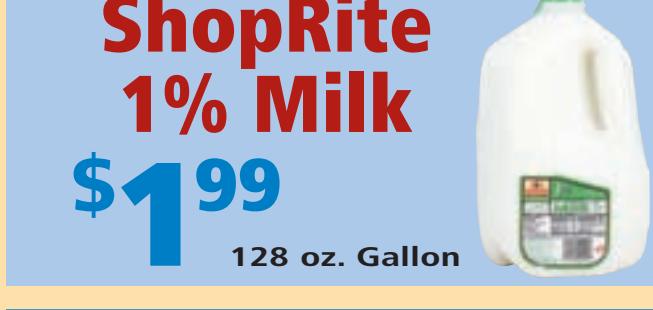
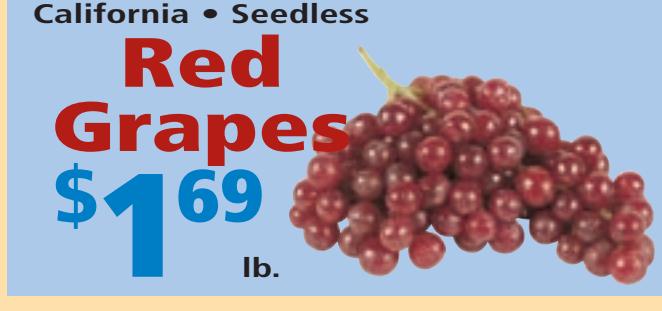


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*See Store For Details

Patty wake patty wake

Christie's on Flatbush Av. to close in a rent dispute

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of a cheap neighborhood favorite will close his restaurant after 45 years in Park Slope and Prospect Heights, citing a landlord-tenant dispute fueled by a nearby sports arena.

Paul Haye, who runs Christie's Jamaican Patties on Flatbush Avenue and Sterling Place, says he'll close by January, claiming his landlord—who last spring welcomed embattled sports bar Prime 6 to the neighborhood—gave him the boot in order to collect higher rent from a new tenant, now that Barclays Center is closer to completion.

Then again, he might just be delinquent on rent, as the landlord, Lima Feng, countered in court documents.

"She's trying to kick me

out," he said. "I don't think it's worth the stress; it's killing me. I've had so many sleepless nights."

The dispute is the latest evidence that small businesses may have trouble staying open near the arena, where the Nets will play basketball next season (if there is a season).

Businesses in Fort Greene and north Park Slope also report that landlords have doubled rent, citing proximity to the arena in new real-estate ads.

Christie's opened in 1966 across the street from its current location, offering the tasty pastries—which one online reviewer called "the best damn patties on the planet"—along with its famous coco bread to neighbors on the go.

A particularly popular item was the patty on coco bread, though there are few diets that would permit it.

In 2006, Haye reopened at its current location, then scored a write-up in the New York Times, a Manhattan newspaper, which called the patties "practically a meal in itself."

Even today, hungry neighbors can still buy the flaky meat-filled treat for just \$2.

Recently, however, business has slowed and Haye admitted to being two months late on rent. He said he tried to pay it—but the build-



Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

ing owner then presented him with two bills totaling \$20,000 for tax and late fees and then sued.

Feng—who had a high-profile battle with Royal Video several years ago—did not respond to calls seeking comment. A woman who answered her cellphone last Thursday said only, "He owes her a lot of money" before hanging up.

Haye now says he's considering opening elsewhere.

"I put my whole life into this place," he said with a sigh. "But I don't know if it's worth it anymore."

Mr. Short stands tall!

Our reporter gets mega-cash for dogging Vito

By Moses Jefferson

The Brooklyn Paper

Aaron Short's relentless pursuit of shenanigans inside Assemblyman Vito Lopez's office and its charity spin-off has kept readers in thrall for years—and now it's won a major award.

Short and Laura Nahmias, a reporter for the Capital and City Hall News, have just been named the inaugural recipients of a statewide investigative journalism competition run by New York Civic, a watchdog group founded by former Parks Commissioner Henry Stern.

Nahmias won the top prize of \$2,000 for a story that uncovered several instances when Assemblyman William Boyland Jr. sought expense reimbursements for items supposedly bought in Albany when he was nowhere near the state capital.

Short was hot on her heels—and earned a cool grand—with his story, "This is supposed to be a senior center. It's actually Vito Lopez's clubhouse," which ran on BrooklynPaper.com on Oct. 13, 2010 and later in the New York Post, our sister publication.

The leads of the story said it all: "A Bushwick nonprofit that gets \$1 million in taxpayer dollars to pro-



Mirthful ace reporter Aaron Short toasts himself this time.

vide services for seniors is instead renting out its first floor to Assemblyman Vito Lopez's political clubhouse—and giving back some of

that money in 'consulting fees' to the embattled lawmaker."

Stern's group cited not only that story, but Short's "ongoing investigation" into the Lopez-founded charity, Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council.

"In this age of media consolidation, it is more important than ever that we vigorously support and encourage investigative journalism," said Stern. "Laura Nahmias and Aaron Short uphold the great tradition of the media acting as watchdogs to keep politicians honest and inform the public when they are not."

Short has been with us since November, 2007. He is 30 years old, but is as spry as reporters six years his junior.

Short's boss, Editor Gersh Kuntzman, was effusive in praise of his protege's accomplishment.

"We're always asking ourselves, 'What's next for Aaron?' — and now we know," said Kuntzman. "We couldn't be more proud of him."

Lopez did not return a call seeking comment, but a Lopez opponent, Democratic District Leader Lincoln Restler, said, "Aaron Short is the rare intrepid journalist that keeps the Brooklyn establishment on its toes."

TRAVEL ADVERTORIAL

Antigua – Land of Sun, Sea and Escape

American Airlines Begins Direct Flights from New York on November 17



Antigua and Barbuda Department of Tourism



English Harbor (above) is the center of yachting activity in Antigua and Barbuda, and it is also a great place for delving into the islands' fascinating history. (At right) You don't have to be a competitive sailor to enjoy Antigua and Barbuda, but if you are, you will find it the idea destination for indulging your seagoing passion.

tral part of Antigua's culture for centuries. Given Antigua's rich marine tradition, it is no surprise that boats of all sorts can be hired in on the island. Most hotels have Sunfish or Sailfish, and a number of companies hire yachts.

The highlight of Antigua's boating scene this year will be the 50th Annual Antigua Charter Yacht Show.

It takes place from December 4th through 10th at Nelson's Dockyard, and American Airlines Flight 673, beginning on November 17, will get you there in plenty of time!

But you don't have to be a sunbather or a yachtsman to enjoy Antigua and Barbuda. Diving and Snorkeling are favored by many visitors, and the two islands have hundreds of wrecks to explore and good shelf diving.

Divers can arrange for equipment through their hotel or guest house.

For those who want to partake of nature on terra firma, hiking and birdwatching are

there to enjoy. Antigua has many hiking trails, and there are a multitude of bird species to be found. And, if you are ecologically minded, you might want to try zip-wiring through the rainforests or sign up for Antigua's Rainforest Canopy Tours.

But let's not forget the historical side of these extraordinary islands. Antigua's English Harbor is the ideal place to get in touch with the islands' past, and in the 1780s the British, under Vice Admiral Horatio Nelson, made

the harbor their Caribbean base. It is also the site of the restored British colonial

naval station called Nelson's Dockyard, mentioned above and named, of course, after Admiral Nelson. It was also at English Harbor that a British peer and Acting Commander Thomas Pitt, the second Baron Camelford, shot dead a lower-born officer in a pistol duel because the latter refused to bow to His Lordship.

Dining in Antigua and Barbuda is another activity to savor. Around much of the islands, menus are geared toward tourists and offer typical Euro-American style food. However, if you prefer to sample the

native fare, you'll have no trouble finding a restaurant that serves up tempting local specialties.

The beaches, the boating, the nature exploration, the history and the cuisine – you and your family have found plenty to enjoy on these unique islands. Now it's time to return home on American Airlines Flight 678, and -- if you can stand a little more pampering -- select the sumptuous Business Class cabin!

For additional information about Antigua and Barbuda, please log onto www.antigua-barbuda.org.



Ted Martin/Antigua and Barbuda Department of Tourism

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CONES...

Continued from page 1
Jacks walked her dog in the park, suffered brain damage after a cyclist collided with her in the same location. Jacks has sued the city for a "careless and reckless" lack of traffic enforcement on what should be a serene roadway.

Park-goers reported other accidents — and dozens of close calls — at a task force meeting attended by more than 100 people last Wednesday, where neighbors compared the street to "the Wild West," then asked for more signs, education and increased police enforcement.

At the Prospect Park Alliance-led hearing, suggested included the basic ("There has to be more police presence"), creative ("Why don't we have a designated time for speed cycling?") and far-fetched ("I would eliminate all bikes all together").

Others stressed the need for a car-free park, saying the shared roadway con-

the cones and into the lane marked with a bike symbol, which is actually designated for pedestrians during the park's non-rush-hour, car-free periods.

Others admitted they had no idea what the new cones were for.

"I think the initial reaction is, 'Oh, these must be for cars,'" said bike commuter Cindy Chung. "But

doing something is smart — [cyclists] really go fast in this park."

Pedestrians also noted the change is necessary — if only to send park-goers the message that something is up with the street.

"It draws attention to the roadway," said Chris Jules, who was walking his dog nearby. "I've seen some crazy, careless walk-

ers around here, too."

A Department of Transportation spokeswoman said that the agency "will monitor these enhancements to see if any adjustments are needed."

Lloyd admitted that more work needs to be done.

"There may not be one perfect solution," she said last week. "But we want to be thinking about them."



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SUIT...

Continued from page 1
power walker Linda Cohen was struck by a 61-year-old cyclist on the same street. She suffered a medically induced coma and is now conscious but slowly recovering.

"It happened to her — and she knows the park intimately," her friend Nancy Moccaldi said between sobs. "Now, her skull is fractured. She is bruised and battered."

It also comes after at least three cycling-related accidents plagued the park this past summer on the same loop.

Jacks filed a separate no-

tice of claim in Brooklyn Supreme Court against the cyclist with whom she collided. He then counter-sued, claiming it was actually her fault for crossing the street outside the crosswalk.

At a road sharing task force meeting in the park on Wednesday, more than 100 park-goers demanded stepped-up enforcement of roadway speed limits, better signage and more cops on the popular street.

"This is a disgrace," said Geoffrey Croft of New York City Park Advocates. "Our parks should be safe."

LOPEZ...

Continued from page 1
last year that the signature on the document was hers, but added that she did not remember signing it.

She also said she had no idea how much Fisher and Battaglia were being paid.

"Nobody ever told me what they made," said Cusimano, who is no longer on the board.

Another board member, Virginia Torres, said that the board discussed a salary increase for Fisher in late 2009 or early 2010, not in February, 2008, as stated in the documents Ridgewood Bushwick sent to the city.

The charity's human resources director, Antoinette Kozlowski, also told city inspectors that the first time she saw any board documents concerning executive compensation was when Fisher gave her three separate resolutions from meetings in 2008, 2009, and 2010 at the same time in the summer of 2010. Fisher told her that the original files had gone missing and these resolutions were "re-created."

In addition, city investigators found that Ridgewood Bushwick's 2009 tax return was riddled with "in-accuracies."

The return did not include Fisher's full compensation from a Ridgewood Bushwick home-care subsidiary, about \$96,000, which she also managed.

The tax forms did say that an independent committee was monitoring Ridgewood Bushwick salaries, but the charity's then-Chief Financial Officer Wesley Hitner said that he was not aware of such a review.

In May, Ridgewood Bushwick filed an amended tax return with more than 20 alterations from its prior return, including the startling admission that Fisher's salary "was not approved by the entire board" and its process for determining executive salaries was flawed.

Ridgewood Bushwick's attorney told the Daily News, which first reported the city's findings, that the charity has since replaced nearly all its board members and Fisher's salary was incorrectly recorded on tax forms.

But Fisher's salary grab made other Ridgewood Bushwick executives skittish.

Ridgewood Bushwick's Youth, Education and Training Services Director, Marisa Elana Zullo, told Fisher on several occasions between 2008 and 2010 that she was "not comfortable" receiving a 32-percent raise that increased her salary to \$219,000 in July 2008, according to Zullo's testimony. Fisher told her she "felt strongly" that Zullo's work justified her salary, but agreed to reduce to \$150,000 in early 2010.

Fisher defended the pay increase as "retroactive compensation" for salary owed



Vito Lopez

to her since 1999, according to the city's interviews with Ridgewood Bushwick's CFO and accountant. She refused to directly answer questions from city investigators and calls made to her attorney and her Bushwick office were not returned.

But Ridgewood Bushwick's accountant Francis Bowen testified that Fisher's retroactive increases only occurred for a year-and-a-half period between February 2007 and July 2008, not the nine years stated in the 2008 board resolution.

And Battaglia, Lopez's girlfriend and a City Planning Commissioner, told city investigators that she did not notice receiving a \$145,000 raise until she saw an "unusually high balance" in her checking account in 2008 that she "had not expected or requested."

When Battaglia asked Fisher why her annual salary rose from \$198,000 to \$343,000, Fisher told her she was receiving a "retroactive" salary increase for two years of work.

But the city was unable to verify Battaglia's salary and hours worked because Fisher never required her to fill out timesheets. And Fisher was unable to produce her own time sheets for 2008 and 2009, upon the city's request.

The return did not include Fisher's full compensation from a Ridgewood Bushwick home-care subsidiary, about \$96,000, which she also managed.

The tax forms did say that an independent committee was monitoring Ridgewood Bushwick's financial mess, telling the Daily News he does not have a role in the daily operations of the charity he founded, but defended its 30-year legacy of revitalizing Bushwick. Lopez's office did not return a call for comment.

But that was enough for Mayor Bloomberg to call major changes at the Bushwick charity.

"Corrective action needs to be taken to ensure that this kind of thing does not happen again," said Bloomberg spokeswoman Julie Wood, adding that Fisher's resignation could be one of the actions.

And Democratic District Leader Lincoln Restler called on the City Council and state agencies to halt funding to Ridgewood Bushwick.

"The obscene compensation packages represent hundreds of thousands of tax dollars that should have been spent on meals and home health care visits for Brooklyn's seniors," said Restler. "Public dollars intended for Ridgewood Bushwick should be reallocated to local organizations that serve Brooklyn honestly."

The city's latest report stemmed from an investigation launched last spring that found a Ridgewood Bushwick employee falsified attendance sheets for city-funded programs held at a Bushwick community center that did not exist.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide

Nov. 25-Dec. 1, 2011

Eat this

Our food writer eats her way through her 30th birthday

By Sarah Zorn
for The Brooklyn Paper

I just turned 30, so I asked my short-armed, deep-pocketed editor to cough up some big bucks so I could consume 30 of the borough's best dishes! But you won't need a special occasion to try them — or even a big budget! — as most of these treats top out at \$10. The Big 3-0 never tasted so good!

Brennan and Carr

The Gargiulo Burger, \$6.50

What's better than the roast beef sandwich dipped in au jus at this 70-year-old institution? A burger topped with roast beef — plus onions and cheese — and then submerged in au jus. You heard us right.

3432 Nostrand Ave. between Avenue V and Gravesend Neck Road in Sheephead Bay, (718) 769-1254

Mill Basin Kosher Delicatessen

Latke chips, \$5.25

If pastrami and corned beef are king at this 30-year-old classic kosher deli, the ingenious latke chips, fried crisp and dipped in applesauce, make a truly tasty queen.

5823 Ave T between E. 58th and 59th streets in Mill Basin, (718) 241-4910

Istanbul Fast Food

Lamb Doner sandwich on homemade bread, \$6.50

Forget stale pitas or ho-hum wraps, this juicy gyro excels when stuffed in black sesame-studded homemade bread. Douse on the accompanying white garlic and red chile sauces.

2202 86th St. between Bay Parkway and Bay 31st Street in Bath Beach, (718) 714-4300

Grand Sichuan House

Sauted loofah, \$8.95

You don't scrub with this mild-tasting Chinese sponge gourd — simply sautéed, it's an additive antidote to Grand Sichuan's other sinus-clearing, peppercorn-laced specialties.

8701 Fifth Ave. between 87th and 88th Streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-8887

Paneantico

B8 sandwich on brick oven bread, \$13.50

You won't argue the price when you check out the generous assemblage of goodies piled on unimpeachable Royal Crown Bakery bread — silky prosciutto, smoky mozzarella, fried lozenges of eggplant, and whole roasted red papers. Dose liberally with fruity olive oil and house-reduced balsamic vinegar — nirvana!

9124 Third Ave. between 91st and 92nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-2347

Tanoreen

Cauliflower Salad, \$6.50

Side dishes are where it's at this Middle Eastern dining destination, especially the unique — and impossibly tasty — combo of browned cauliflower florets, nutty tahini



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Photo by Elizabeth Graham



Photo by Alice Projansky



Photo by Steve Salomon

and zippy pomegranate molasses.

7523 Third Ave. between 75th and 76th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-5600

Pio Pio Riko

Jalea, \$26

This Peruvian fast food chicken joint might not be an obvious stop for a fried seafood fix — but the mammoth mélange of squid, shrimp, mussels, crab legs, white fish and yucca — sided with green chile sauce, creamy white sauce, and tangy onion salad — beats the pants off of a sad plate of tentacle-less, red-sauce calamari.

5917 Fourth Ave. between 59th and 60th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 492-4505

Great Taste Dumpling

Pork and chive pan-fried dumplings, \$1, vegetable pancake, \$1.25

At five for a dollar, it's hard to argue the value of these browned bottom dumplings laced with soy and Siracha. Add in a wedge of the focaccia-esque sesame bread stuffed with carrots, cilantro and chile — like meatless banh mi — and you've got one delicious (and highly affordable) lunch.

4317 Eighth Ave. between 43rd and 44th streets in Borough Park, (718) 436-2516

82 Sixth Ave. at St. Marks Place in Park Slope, (718) 857-2473

Conivium Osteria

Green apple and cinnamon ravioli with duck ragu, \$18

Admittedly, this dish sounds like it

Blue Ribbon Brooklyn

Smoked fish, \$26

It's hard to get out of Blue Ribbon Brooklyn for less than a king's ransom, but the house-smoked plate of under-the-sea delicacies — salmon, trout, scallops, and shrimp, dotted with capers and onions and flanked with steamed toast, onion cream, and fennel slaw — feels (and tastes) like a comparable steal.

280 Fifth Ave. between First Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 840-0404

Purbird

Flame grilled chicken, \$8.95 (half), \$15.95 (whole)

This new Park Slope poultry joint has found a way to make chicken exciting — by preparing it simply, and well. Fork over the extra 50 cents for one of the intriguing house sauces, like roasted lemon and parsley, quince chutney, or jalapeno-caper puree.

82 Sixth Ave. at St. Marks Place in Park Slope, (718) 857-2473

Convivium Osteria

Green apple and cinnamon ravioli with duck ragu, \$18

Admittedly, this dish sounds like it

shouldn't work — yet avoids cloying gimmickry by striking the perfect balance of sweet and savory.

68 Fifth Ave. between Bergen Street and Prospect Place in Park Slope, (718) 857-1833

Mitchell's Soul Food

Fried chicken, \$7.50 dark meat (\$8.50 white meat)

Do you feel like chicken (or catfish, or meatloaf, or smothered pork chops) tonight? Get your down-home fix — sided with collards, mac and cheese and cornbread — at this casual Prospect Heights spot.

617 Vanderbilt Ave. between Bergen and St. Marks streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 789-3212

Brooklyn Ice House

Pulled pork sandwiches, \$3 each (2 for \$5)

The barbecued piggy sandwiches are squeal of a deal at this laid-back Red Hook saloon — along with just about everything else. 70+ beers from \$3-7! Bacon wrapped hot dogs with exemplary fries for \$5!

See **EAT THIS** on page 12

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SEX!

Bump'n Rhyme

Poetry and striptease — together at last!

A quirky cast of semi-nude dancers, bards and blues musicians will converge at Sideshows by the Seashore on Dec. 3 in writer-producer Michael Schwartz's off-beat, "A Coney Island From The Behind."

Schwartz will headline the smorgasbord variety show, which will feature stories and comedy based on his hard-knock childhood in 1970s Coney Island — the inspiration for his plays "Coney Island Last Stop" and "In the Shadow of The Third Rail."

"It's always been a place for wonder and magic," said Schwartz. "This show is going to capture that spirit."

Or at least provide for an unusual evening of entertainment. Additional acts include a reading of "The Coney Island Love Letters," by Mermaid Hawley and Bill Brovold, a ragtime piano performance and a harmonica solo set by Hank Coyote Wagner.

"A Coney Island Of The Behind" at Sideshows by the Seashore [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159], Dec. 3, 7 pm, \$10. For info, visit www.coneyisland.com.

— Daniel Bush

MORE SEX!

'Bare' bones

Forget about the birds and the bees: A new night of storytelling probes candid, real-life sex.

Head to Union Hall for "Bare!" — a performance of true, funny and honest stories of lust, desire and romance.

"To tell a good story about sex, you need more than a few minutes," says pseudonymous host Jefferson Bites, explaining the subject matter isn't always universal. "The audience has to go from, 'What did he just say!?' to 'Ohhh. That's how he fell in love at the orgy!'"

This month's topic is simply "More" — interpret as you like — and performances are followed by a raffle of sex toys from Babeland.

"It's important to talk openly about these things," said storyteller Diana Adams, whose long-term polyamorous relationship was the subject of an MTV documentary. "It can be scary — but if we're not doing it, who will?"

Bare! at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], Nov. 28, 8 pm, \$5. For info, visit www.unionhallny.com.

— Natalie O'Neill

EVEN MORE SEX!

Ramblin' on!

Sultry burlesque temptress Rosie 151 is taking the stage at the Prospect Heights steampunk bar Way Station on Dec. 1, part of a year-long residency as frontwoman of six-piece bluegrass outfit, The Red Hook Ramblers.

"The drums, horns, the tuba and trombone lend itself to bump and grind," said Rosie, who will sing, dance and, of course, strip.

The buxom Brooklynite has been entertaining throughout the burlesque circuit for six years. But singing is a challenge she's willing to take on full-bore — and scantily clad.

"For some people, burlesque is over-saturated, so our performance is an all-around good time," Rosie said. "It's great jazz of some bygone era, and it's me singing, and, of course, a little bit of burlesque. There's a bit of everything."

Way Station proprietor Andy Heidel thinks an eclectic musical lineup is the key to a successful watering hole.

"I'm booking blues, jazz, soul, bluegrass, Dixieland — stuff I like to see," Heidel said. "Having a burlesque dancer as the frontwoman, backed up by a Dixieland jazz band? Yeah, that's a great combo."

Red Hook Ramblers at the Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (917) 279-5412], every first Thursday beginning Dec. 1, 9 pm. Free. For info, visit www.waystationbk.blogspot.com.

— Juliet Linderman

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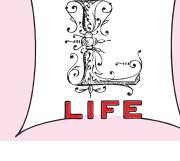
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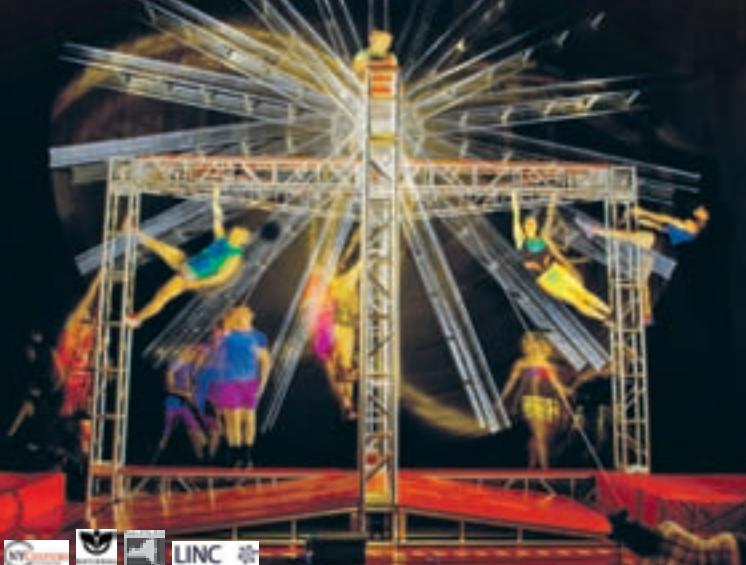
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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

November 25



Hi, 'Five'

Get ready to party like it's 1599! Shakespeare wrote four plays that year, including "Henry V," which is being staged by the Irondale Ensemble. In this re-imagining, the actors switch from one character to another before the audience's eyes. And instead of a stage, the production unfolds on a carpet in front of the audience, creating an intimate connection between performer and observer.

7 pm. "Henry V" at Irondale Ensemble Project [85 S. Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233] through Dec. 10. Tickets, \$35.

TUESDAY

November 29

Comedy karaoke

Raucous redheaded comedienne Julie Klausner will join Hot Tub host Kurt Braunohler, The Onion's Joe Randazzo, and storyteller Giulia Rozzi for Jukebox night, where audience members are invited to deliver a short piece of comedy, or tell a story, inspired by a song — then actually sing one of his or her choosing. Plus, there'll be plenty of performances from professionals.

8 pm. The Jukebox at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. Tickets, \$5. For info, visit www.unionhallny.com.

8 pm. "Babes in Toyland" at the Brick Theater [575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189] through Dec. 10. Tickets, \$18. For info, visit www.littlelord.org.

WEDNESDAY

November 30



'Toy' time

Little Lord Theater Company is staging the elaborate, "Babes in Toyland," as a money-saving recession spectacular. Instead of 24 actors, animals and an orchestra, the production will be handled by just five mad-dashing thespians. "It's so fun because it becomes less about the story, and more about five desperate actors," said director Michael Levinton. "It's absurd."

8 pm. "Babes in Toyland" at the Brick Theater [575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189] through Dec. 10. Tickets, \$18. For info, visit www.littlelord.org.

THURSDAY

December 1

Hope glows

In writer Jackie Dangziger's new musical, "The Lost Light," actors carry around light emitting jars that glow stronger as their character's become filled with hope — a key element of a plot that centers on a drought-stricken village that makes the ultimate Faustian bargain: material comfort in exchange for hope. One holdout saves the day, of course — and boy do those jars glow!

7:30 pm. "The Lost Light" at Center for Performance Research [361 Manhattan Ave. between Jackson and Withers streets in Williamsburg, (718) 349-1210] through Dec. 4. Tickets, \$12 (\$8 for children). For info, visit www.sharkmother.org.

8:30 pm. Owen at Glasslands Gallery [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1450]. Tickets, \$13. For info, visit www.glasslands.blogspot.com.

FRIDAY

December 2



'Ghost' light

Chicago-based crooner Mike Kinsella, will perform tracks from his new album, "Ghost Town," under his solo moniker, Owen. Kinsella's sixth solo album is about ghosts, albeit those who haunt Kinsella's musical past, present, and future. It's mellow and melancholy, contemplative with layered guitar riffs gently superimposed onto each other.

8:30 pm. Owen at Glasslands Gallery [289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1450]. Tickets, \$13. For info, visit www.glasslands.blogspot.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, NOV. 25

MUSIC, BEN STIEFEL: Hunter's Steak and Ale House. Free. 7 pm. 9404 Fourth Ave. at 94th Street, (718) 238-8899.

SAT, NOV. 26

OTHER

WORKSHOP, JOB TRAINING: Computer literacy and job readiness classes. Free. 10 am–1 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100]. www.ymcany.org.

WILD CARROT HUNT: Wildman Steve Brill leads four-hour foraging tour of Marine Park. \$20 (\$10 children under 12). 11:45 am. Marine Park [Avenue U and Burnett Street in Marine Park, (914) 835-2153].

SUN, NOV. 27

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC FROM GOOD SHEPHERD: Choral recital with the Brandy String Trio. Free. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church [1950 Batchelder St. at Avenue S in Marine Park, (718) 998-2800].

MON, NOV. 28

FILM, "PINGU": A "Big Movies for Little Kids" series favorite. \$7.4 pm. Cobble Hill Cinema [265 Court St. between Butler & Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 596-9113]. www.cobblehilltheatre.com.

READING, ED ROTH: Author of "Stem Cell 201." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, BRANDON SANDERS QUINTET FEATURING WARREN WOLF AND TIA FULLER: Part of "Jazzy Mondays" series. Free. 7 pm. For My Sweet [103 Fulton St. at Claver Place in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 857-1427].

OPEN REHEARSALS: Brooklyn's Sweet Adelines Barbershop Chorus welcomes singers of all voice ranges. Free. 7:30 pm. Call for location. (718) 567-8190.

MUSIC, BEN STAPP AND THE ZOMMOS COLLECTIVE: \$25. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Downtown, (917) 267-0363]. www.roulette.org.

READING, PHIL SCHULTZ: Pulitzer Prize-winner of "My Dyslexia,"

with Meghan O'Rourke, author of "Once, The Long Goodbye." 7 pm. WORD [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. www.wordbrooklyn.com.

READING, CLIFFORD W. ZINK: Author of "The Roebeling Legacy." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, JERKS AND JAMS: An "old-time" jam, open to all. Free. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Farmacy and Soda Fountain [513 Henry St. between Sackett and Union streets in Cobble



Anchor's away! Go see Little Anchors, with Black Forest and Plates of Cake, at Union Hall in Park Slope on Thursday night!

with Meghan O'Rourke, author of "Once, The Long Goodbye." 7 pm. WORD [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096]. www.wordbrooklyn.com.

COMEDY, JUKEBOX COMEDY KARAOKE: Featuring Julie Klausner, Kurt Braunohler, Joe Randazzo, and Giulia Rozzi. \$5. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

READING, CLIFFORD W. ZINK: Author of "The Roebeling Legacy." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. www.powerhousearena.com.

WED, NOV. 30

WORKSHOP, TANGO LESSONS: For adults and youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No experience and no partners necessary. Pre-registration for youngsters required.

Hill, (718) 522-6260]. brooklynfarmacy.blogspot.com.

COMEDY, JUKEBOX COMEDY KARAOKE: Featuring Julie Klausner, Kurt Braunohler, Joe Randazzo, and Giulia Rozzi. \$5. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

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READING, HOLIDAY PARTY: Celebrate the release of "Food 52 Cook Book." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, LITTLE ANCHOR, BLACK FOREST, PLATES OF CAKE: \$5. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, OUT TO LUNCH: Free. 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762]. [www.tealoungeny.com](http://tealoungeny.com).

THURS, DEC. 1

TALK, A MORNING WITH PETE HAMILT: Acclaimed essayist, novelist and journalist. Free. 11 am. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5200].

TALK, QUIARA ALEGRIA HUDES: Theatreworks hosts a Q&A with author of "In the Heights." Free. 4 pm. Vorhees Theatre [180 Jay Street in Downtown, (718) 260-4973]. www.theatreworks.org.

TALK, ST. ANNE'S BOOK CLUB: "A Month in the Country," by J.L. Carr. Free. 6:45 pm. St. Anne's Church [157 Montague St. between Clinton and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 875-6960]. www.saintannandtheholylegacy.org.

READING, HOLIDAY PARTY: Celebrate the release of "Food 52 Cook Book." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, LITTLE ANCHOR, BLACK FOREST, PLATES OF CAKE: \$5. 7:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400]. www.unionhallny.com.

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MUSIC, OUT TO LUNCH: Free. 9 pm. Tea Lounge [837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762]. [www.tealoungeny.com](http://tealoungeny.com).

THURS, DEC. 1

"TEDXBROOKLYN": Talks, music, art exhibits, tech demos and more. \$100. 7 am. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369]. www.brooklynbowl.com.

</



Dirty! Dirty! Dirty! Mike Edison's new book delves into the lives of four pornographers, — two from our own filthy borough!

Dirty, filthy Brooklyn

Mike Edison reveals our borough's porn-filled past

By Juliet Linderman
The Brooklyn Paper

County of Kings? More like county of pornographers!

Both Screw Magazine magnate Al Goldstein and Penthouse proprietor Bob Guccione are Brooklyn natives — and they're two of the four XXX kingpins at the center of author Mike Edison's raunchy (and that's just the title!), "Dirty! Dirty! Dirty! Of Playboys, Pigs, and Penthouse Pauers: An American Tale of Sex and Wonder."

"These guys are fearless,"

Edison said, of Goldstein and The Gooch. "And that's what you get coming up in Brooklyn — fearless, dirty Brooklyn."

"Dirty! Dirty! Dirty!" is part porn history, part social commentary, all deliciously risqué, and chronicles the rise and fall of Goldstein, Guccione, Hustler heir Larry Flynt and Playboy playboy Hugh Hefner — the four guys who took sex from the bedroom to the newsstand.

But this isn't simply a history about girlie mags; it's a rumination on changing mores, sexual liberation and American culture.

"America runs away from sex while simultaneously running towards it," Edison said. "People are still shy on the subject, but you click a mouse and see all the filth you want. For free."

And when Edison talks about filth, he knows. As former editor of celebrated marijuana magazine, High Times; past editor-in-chief of Screw Magazine; and author of booze-soaked, porn-tinted memoir, "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go," Edison and raunch are old friends.

But Edison's bread and butter is free speech — and ultimately, that's what "Dirty!

Dirty! Dirty!" is about. All Four Horsemen of the Brapocalypse triumphed over would-be censors, from Hefner's victory over obscenity charges to Flynt's defeat of Jerry Falwell.

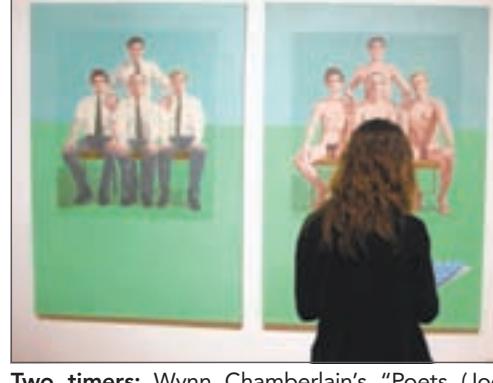
"These four guys did more for free speech than anyone," Edison said. "Every American owes them — it's because of them that we can be dirty, and that The Brooklyn Paper can do what it does."

Mike Edison at Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place, (917) 279-5412]. Dec. 8, 9 pm. Free.

Hidden no more

Museum scores with randy show

The Butcher of Flatbush Ave.
Extension



Community Newspaper Group / Aaron Short

Two timers: Wynn Chamberlain's "Poets (Joe Brainard, Frank O'Hara, Joe LeSuer, Frank Lima)" makes a nice tandem.

Don't hide from the Brooklyn Museum's controversial new exhibit — seek it.

Despite what religious leaders and their political enablers will have you believe, the Museum's latest show, "Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture," is a triumph.

Yes, there's a single piece in the show — a video that features a few seconds of ants crawling on a crucifix — that may offend the faithful.

But the larger exhibition — 104 other words strong! — coalesces into a powerful, and inescapable, message about of contemporary American art: sexuality matters!

The fourth-floor exhibition includes works from scores of iconic artists including Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jasper Johns.

The ant video is, of course, the one that has gotten most of the publicity, and not for the right reasons.

The late David Wojnarowicz's disjointed video, "A Fire in My Belly," does indeed depict vermin crawling on a statue of the Christ,

than the Wojnarowicz video, including AA Bronson's gigantic photograph of a friend on his death bed, Lyle Ashton Harris's print of two men kissing as one holds a gun to his chest, and a George Wesley Bellows lithograph of nude boys in a communal shower — unintentionally offensive in light of recent oblique actions at two college athletic programs.

"Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture" at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000].

and as such, it has drawn the predictable ire from the Catholic Church and conservative leaders who said the video is offensive.

But seen in full, this snippet of Mexican urban life and religious iconography powerfully portrays the casualties of human suffering as the results of political, religious and ideological conflicts during the AIDS epidemic.

So don't listen to the art critics in power suits and collars: see the piece for yourself.

Better yet, the show has far more provocative images

BAR SCRAWL

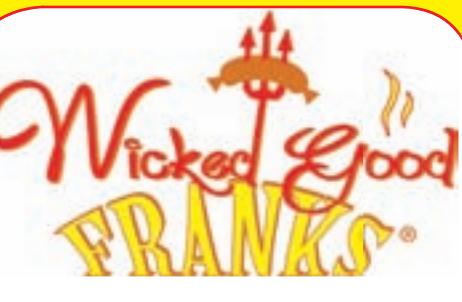


By Bill Roundy

The Flying Lobster is a cozy new wine bar in Carroll Gardens.



Flying Lobster [144 Union St. at Hicks Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 855-2633]. Open daily, 6 pm-1 am. For info, visit <http://www.flying-lobster.com>.



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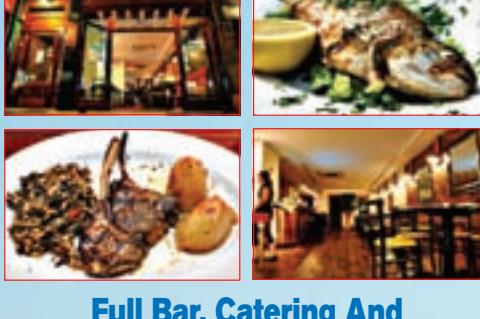
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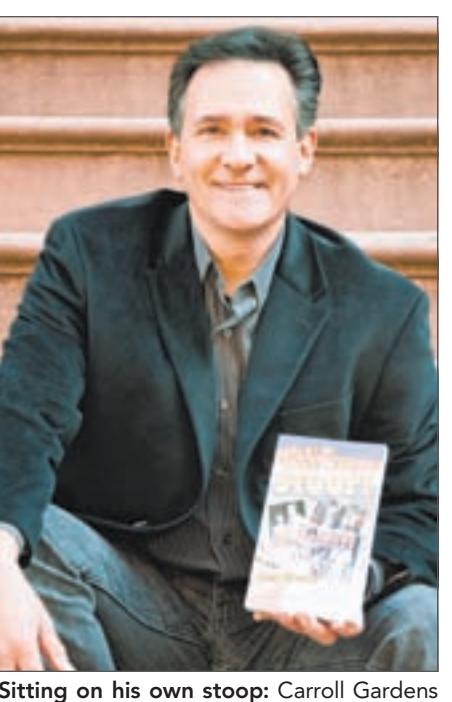
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Those were the days

Carroll Gardens native recalls old neighborhood in a book

By Dan MacLeod
The Brooklyn Paper

Depending on whom you ask, Brooklyn in the 1980s was either a violent, dirty, cesspool, or a wonderland filled with hilarious characters. For author John Khoury, it was both.

The Carroll Gardens native's new book, "Go Sit on Your Own Stoop!" pays tribute to a time in Brooklyn's history when danger lurked around every corner and neighborhood guys with names like "Jimmy The Mute," "Frankie Parrot" and "Chunky Flappers" made up a colorful cast that gave the borough its patented character.

"Go Sit On Your Own Stoop!" is a coming-of-age story set on Henry

Street in the 1970s — and being a classic bildungsroman, it prominently features the Triple Crown of Brooklyn life in the "Warriors" era: Mafia goons, local punks, and, of course, girls.

"Out-of-towners who've recently moved into Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights and Park Slope really have trouble believing and comprehending how dangerous, tough and dirty these neighborhoods were up until about 10 to 15 years ago," Khoury writes in a chapter that recalls when his uncles got stomped after one of them flirted with the ex-girlfriend of a made man. "Brooklyn in the 1970s was a lot more nasty than romantic."

Khoury, a broadcast operator for American Movie Classics, has

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

BOOKS

John Khoury at Brooklyn Farmacy [513 Henry St. between Sackett and Degraw streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 522-6260], Dec. 3, 11 am. For info, visit [www.gositonyourownstoop.com](http://gositonyourownstoop.com).

since pulled up stakes for Long Island, but he was compelled to revisit his old neighborhood after years of entralling friends with stories of his exploits.

"The stories were riveting to them," he said. "The feedback was terrific."

The book, whose title evokes what old ladies used to yell at him and his friends, doesn't follow a

conventional plot line or narrative arc; it is instead split into sections based around pivotal moments in Khoury's life.

For example, there's a chapter about his attempts to get a girl to make out with him, a section that also brings up the most exciting — and then most horrific — sexual experience of Khoury's young life, when he sneaked a peak at a topless woman only to then recoil in agony as she plucked hairs from her nipples.

There is also a chapter about stickball, handball and whiffle ball that features a crazy neighborhood lady who tries to teach them "a lesson" by pouring boiling water on them from a second-story window. And it wouldn't be a 1970s book without a

chapter about 1977 — the year that "Saturday Night Fever" and *Son of Sam* remade the city.

As Khoury writes in that chapter, the craziest place in the borough for him was Bensonhurst.

"On July 4, the neighborhood 'boys' didn't feel like lighting fireworks one at a time so instead they poured some gasoline and set the street on fire," he writes. "There was literally a raging inferno in the street. ... It was an insane place to be, but it's where I spent a lot of time as a kid."

Khoury's triumph is his ability to find humor in the face of violence and decay, and to craft charming vignettes that make it hard to not miss the days before Smith Street — once an uncrossable line of demarcation — became a go-to brunch spot with \$4 coffee and three places serving croque monsieurs.

"I did not want to put something out that said, 'This is when the neighborhood was the best,'" he said. "We can't look at what Brooklyn is today and dismiss it. Every generation creates their magic. Just because it's different from what you grew up with, doesn't mean it's any less magical."

of flaky, buttery roti.

1267 Fulton St. between Arlington Place and Nostrand Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 783-0316

Thirstbaravin

French lentil salad with lardons, \$10

Crown Heights has good eats too — especially at the new wine and "scratch foods" bar, Thirstbaravin. A warm lentil salad with lardons and hard-boiled egg is a classy little number — and the perfect accompaniment for a moderately priced glass of vino.

629 Classon Ave. between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific streets in Crown Heights, (718) 857-9227

Mimi's Hummus

Labne sandwich, \$7

Mimi's may be a master of the chickpea, but its Labne sandwich displays a deft hand with a full range of Middle Eastern ingredients. Strained yogurt cheese is deployed alongside cilantro spice, cauliflower salad, cumin mushrooms and green tahini. Yum!

1209 Cortelyou Rd. between Westminster and Argyle roads in Ditmas Park, (718) 284-4444

St. Anselm

Butchers steak, \$15

We questioned St. Anselm's recent transformation from gut-bomb haven (deep fried hot dogs!) to demure meat and seafood grill — but their heavenly garlic butter-basted hanger has us convinced. Order it bloody with a side of cast-iron-crusted truffled mashed potatoes.

355 Metropolitan Ave. between Fourth and Havelmeyer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 384-5054

Mesa Coyoacan

Tacos with mushrooms,

huilicacoche, cactus

salad, \$9

Sure, you can order your tortillas al pastor, or stuffed with carne asada or chicken tinga, but these tasty tacos had us at huilicacoche. Hooray for Mexican corn fungus!

372 Graham Ave. between Conselyea Street and Skillman Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-8171

Ali's Trinidad Roti

Buss up shot with curry, \$8

We go for the hard-to-find

conch at this tasty Trini spot, but you can't go wrong with fish, chicken, shrimp or goat. They'll ask if you want veggies too (potato, chickpea, spinach and pumpkin curries) — the obvious answer is yes. Drizzle with tamarind or as much hot pepper sauce as you can handle, and sop your pottage up with delicious wads

298 Bedford Ave. between Grand and First Streets in Williamsburg, (347) 335-0446

Paulie Gees

The Hellboy, \$16

What's tastier than the Delboy, a delectable pizza pie topped with Fiore di Latte and parmagiano cheeses, Italian tomatoes, and spicy sopressata? Try the Hellboy, which comes with a side dish of chile-spiked honey.

60 Greenpoint Ave. between West and Franklin streets in Greenpoint, (347) 987-3747

Northeast Kingdom

The NEK burger, \$14

Only one burger is needed on the menu at this eatery, inspired by the farming communities and deer camps of Vermont. The fab NEK burger is topped with duxelle mushrooms, tobacco onions and swiss, and sided with duck fat fried tater tots.

18 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Starr streets in Bushwick, (718) 386-3864

Robert's

City white bread, \$6

Pizza schmeetza — save yourself an impossibly long wait for a table and grab a loaf of this superior wood-fired bread to go. Even better, pick one up at Anarchy in a Jar at Smorgasburg, along with a vat of wild blueberry jam or grapefruit and smoked salt marmalade.

261 Moore Street between White and Bogart streets in Bushwick, (718) 417-1118

Sitting on his own stoop: Carroll Gardens resident John Khoury, author of self-published memoir, "Go Sit on Your Own Stoop!" is practices what he preaches.

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The real Bklyn Bridge story

Historian explores the Roebling clan — its iconic span and its legacy

By Colin Mixson
The Brooklyn Paper

Traffic is pretty damn bad on the Brooklyn Bridge — but that's nothing compared to building it.

More than 20 men died during its construction, but their sacrifice yielded a bridge that has endured more than 125 years of horse-drawn carriage, car, truck and even elephant traffic without buckling — an epic saga that forms the heart of Clifford Zink new book, "The Roebling Legacy."

"It's such a classic American story," said Zink, who will read at PowerHouse Arena in DUMBO on Nov. 29. "It has immigration, the Industrial Revolution, visionary engineering accomplishments and, of course, tragedy and heroism."

The bridge was designed, engineered and, in part, funded by the Roebling family — so it's fitting that Kriss Roebling, the great-great-great-grandson of engineer Washington Roebling — will be on hand.

Needless to say, Roebling is a fan of his ancestors' work.

"Being a life-long New Yorker, there are so many times that I'll be walking over the bridge and my sense of family history dissolves into the experience of being a New Yorker," said Roebling, who lives steps from the bridge in Brooklyn Heights. "Even



The descendant: Kriss Roebling, — a descendant of the guy who built the great bridge, — will introduce author Clifford Zink at a reading on Nov. 29 in DUMBO.

if I had no family connection, I would still love the bridge."

Sure, every Brooklynite feels he knows the bridge and its history intimately. But Zink's book is chock-a-block with details that will delight even the most jaded New Yorker, such as:

• How Washington Roebling, the son of the bridge's designer, became disabled in a construction accident — and then oversaw the final construc-

tion of the bridge by watching his workers through a telescope from an apartment in Brooklyn Heights.

• How Emily Roebling, Washington's wife, became a liaison between her husband and assistant engineers at the bridge after his accident and was an early symbol for the women's rights movement by shouldering a man's responsibilities in a man's world.

• How the family business oper-

ated for four generations and developed what some people call America's first sports car, the Mercer Raceabout.

• How Washington Roebling II, Washington's nephew, died with the sinking of the Titanic.

It's a fascinating tale — and the setting for Zink's reading could not be more appropriate: DUMBO, after all, earned its name from being

"down under" the bridge overpass, and the neighborhood has sweeping views of the true Roebling legacy.

Clifford Zink reads from "The Roebling Legacy" at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], Nov. 29, 7-9 pm. Free. For info, visit www.powerhousearena.com.

Five things you don't know about the Brooklyn Bridge

- The bridge, completed in 1883, was built without the aid of electricity.

- After several workers died after spending long stretches in caissons under the East River, scientists started studying the condition — now known as "the bends" — helping to improve safety for deep-sea divers.

- The bridge began as a privately financed project — funded by the New

- York and Brooklyn Bridge Company. But the work went over budget, and investors were bailed out by the state, which financed the remainder of the \$15-million project — more than \$2.5 billion today.

- A week after the bridge opened, a rumor spread that the span could collapse — prompting a stampede that killed 12 people. But to reassure bridge users of the bridge's

- strength, PT Barnum marched 21 "Jumbo" elephants across it (successfully, by the way).

- And those stories of people "buying" the Brooklyn Bridge? Well, they're true. One con man, George Parker, sold the bridge to several unlucky marks, once for as little as \$50. And another, William McClosky, spent two and a half years in Sing Sing.

— Colin Mixson

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Soul of the borough

Band wants to define a new genre for all of us

By Juliet Linderman
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's got soul — but did you know?

If jazzman Craig Shoenbaum has his way, you will — that is, once you see his band live at Southpaw in Park Slope on Dec. 10.

Shoenbaum, the founder and frontman of the funky rock outfit OTIS, is determined to shed light on the nascent musical movement that already includes acts like SoulLive and the Royal Family — and gain a little notoriety and name recognition in the process.

"The timing is right for us — we think of ourselves



Cool cats: OTIS comes to Southpaw on Dec. 15.

as soul, funk, and rock, but the soul sound is our thing; our new slogan is 'Brooklyn soul,' " Shoenbaum said.

OTIS's sophomore album,

"Music Elevator," released on Nov. 21, has a jazzy, full-bodied and soulful vibe — complete with buttery bass lines, classic keyboard fills, talking guitar

riffs, and a horn section laid down by very windy trumpeter/sax player Joe Scatassa.

"We just need to get noticed, have someone let us quit our jobs so we can play music full-time, and put the Brooklyn soul genre on the map!" Shoenbaum said.

These guys are already well on their way.

9 DAYS..

Continued from page 10

Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionnally.com.

DANCE, PERFORMANCE AND DISCUSSION:

Featuring BAX's grant recipients. \$15. 8 pm. BAX — Brooklyn Arts Exchange [421 Fifth Ave. in South Slope, (718) 832-0018], www.bax.org.

SAT, DEC. 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

COFFEE BARK: FIDO offers free goodies for dogs and their owners. Free. 7-9 am. Prospect Park Picnic House [West Dr. at Third Street in Park Slope], www.prospectpark.org.

NATURE WALK: Hunt for wild coffee with Wildman Steve Brill. Pre-registration required. \$20 (\$10 children under 12). 11:45 am. Prospect Park [Grand Army Plaza at Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (914) 835-2153], www.wildmanstevebrill.com.

OTHER

WINTER FESTIVAL: Benefit for the Gowanus Canal Conservancy. \$40. 6-9 pm. Build It Green [69 Ninth Street, between Second Avenue and Smith Street in Gowanus], www.gowanuscanalconservancy.org.

BAROQUE ACROSS THE RIVER: A celebration of French culture. \$20. 7 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

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A no judgment column



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

help them help my boys. I keep my fingers crossed that, together, we can crack the case, keep the kids on the right track, moving forward, learning well. I keep my fingers crossed that I might improve, too, that I might be able to take my own ego out of the game and just concentrate on how I might assist my kids and encourage them in a loving, positive way to be their best.

encouragement back to me when my writing wasn't going so well.

"You can do it, Mom, I know you can," he said, sympathy in his eyes for my dejection. He placed a loving hand on my shoulder. "Remember? You're a hard worker."

Such is the lesson that is most important, so good to be reminded. All you can do is work hard, put in the effort to do your best. It's a challenge when "best" is a relative term, when others do the judging, but that is always going to be true. My kids are always going to have to put themselves in a position to be assessed, so it's good to get the practice early and often.

The trick is not to take it too much to heart, to realize, as I myself try to do, that even if you're not Nabakov, it doesn't mean you're nothing.

"As long as you're doing your best, and you can feel good about it..." I say to my boys. After all, in my house, feeling good is the aim.

a hiss at myself and at him, at his great lack of understanding.

"What? This isn't about me? Oh, yes, it is. If I were a better mother, then they would be..."

"They would be... what? They're their own people, remember?"

It hit me, then. I actually thought about his words. Right. OH, right! They came out of me, but they began, after a time, to exist independently. They are more and more their own selves every day, distant and distinct from their Dear Old Mom.

There it is again, that faint, humming, trilling mantra: I'm losing them. Report

cards are just one of so many arenas that remind me how they are separate beings, interested in certain things, not so much in others, and that there are things I can do to help, but — the big "but." They are who they are.

I always try to calm myself before meeting with the boys' teachers, to drop the defensive-mother guard and listen to what they have to say, to their view of how my boys comport themselves separate from me, to what they see as their strengths and weaknesses.

I try, then, to offer up the insights I have gleaned about my children in the home environment, things I think might

Vegas.

Grimaldi became a pizza king himself after working at his uncle's East Harlem joint, Patsy's Pizzeria, which opened in the 1930s as one of the city's earliest parlors.

The original Patsy died in the 1970s, but his widow sold the parlor to longtime

employees, forcing Grimaldi to open the parlor under the Brooklyn Bridge.

Years later, Grimaldi said he regretted selling his pizzeria to Ciolfi and emerged from retirement in 2006 to launch a Patsy's stand in Floyd Bennett Field.

He may emerge again.

PIZZA...

Continued from page 1
possible to replicate char, are illegal in the city. But the oven inside Grimaldi's, like others around town, was grandfathered in.

The oven can't be relocated, though Grimaldi's was apparently going to attempt just that.

"We're going to move it piece-by-piece," Ciolfi's daughter Gina Peluso told The Brooklyn Paper before being informed that the new location — a former bank turned bar and lounge — could not have the oven.

Still, Peluso put a positive spin on the move — and took a little dig at her old landlord.

"We're moving into a bigger, nicer, and cleaner facility," she said. "It will be nice to have a little more room."

However cramped, the storefront under the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the city's top-rated pizzerias, attracting

celebrity visits — including First Lady Michelle Obama, TV crews, and a daily line of hungry tourists.

Inside the tiny brick building, old photographs of the Rat Pack cover the walls, a mix of Sinatra and '80s music plays on the radio and people are crammed together at tables covered in old checkered table cloths.

"Pizza places have to be a little grungy," said Tim Zagat, co-founder of the Zagat restaurant survey.

"If it was a bright new clean place that would be unlike my favorite pizza places. But it's hard to judge in advance what the new Grimaldi's will be."

Patsy Grimaldi, who learned how to make the tantalizing pies under his pizziolino uncle, opened the restaurant in 1990. Eight years later, he sold his shop and the name to Ciolfi, whose family now also operates offshoots in Manhattan, Queens, Hoboken and Las

Continued from page 1

Without the anonymous donations, it would not have been. After the brutal attack, the pit bull and, more importantly, his owner fled, leaving Tali whimpering in pain and Bednarska whimpering over a massive medical bill that she couldn't afford.

She launched a hunt to find the dog's human companion, but the blonde thirtysomething never came forward.

"He's expected to fully recover," said Bednarska with a relieved sigh. "I'm very grateful."

Doctors later explained Tali was close to losing her leg — but successfully completed the procedure on Tuesday.

The Brooklyn Paper covered the doggy debacle, and TV news picked up the tale.

Who says newspapers can't save a dog?

DOG...

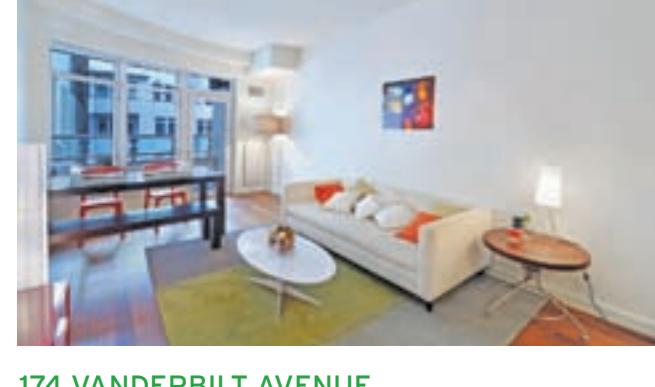
That's when at least six people — including an orthopedist with a big heart and several anonymous donors — sent cash to Animal Kind Veterinary Hospital in Park Slope to pay for the surgery.

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"He's expected to fully recover," said Bednarska with a relieved sigh. "I'm very grateful."

Who says newspapers can't save a dog?

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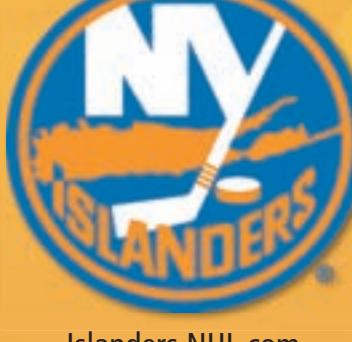
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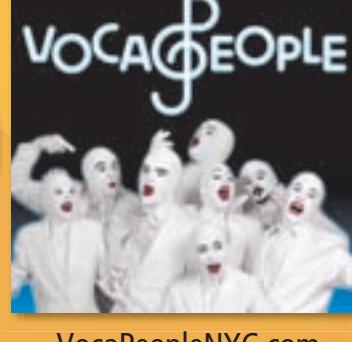
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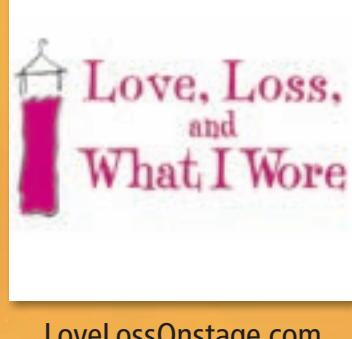
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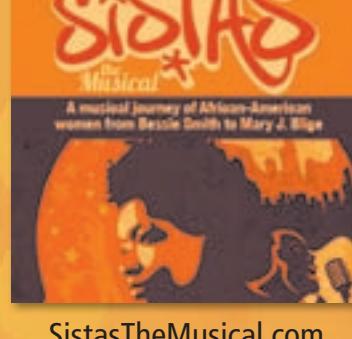
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From dead space to green space

Burial ground could become a park

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

An abandoned naval cemetery will be transformed into a peaceful, wildlife-filled respite under a proposal being pushed by the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative.

On Thursday, the group—which is creating a 14-mile bike path along the borough's industrial waterfront—presented plans to make the Naval Hospital Cemetery in the Brooklyn Navy Yard along Williamsburg Street West into a public sanctuary.

"When you pass the area, you think, 'Wow, that was

bleak,'" said Milton Puryear, planning director for the initiative. "Now this can be a beautiful place to get relief from buildings and concrete."

The 1.7-acre site between Kent and Flushing avenues once included a ball field and, as rumor has it, a training ground for police dogs.

But for decades, it's been a fenced-off eyesore and home for feral cats.

The plans will create an urban oasis, with an elevated boardwalk, greenhouse, outdoor theater and grove of black cherry trees.

A giant meadow of native grasses and wildflowers will lure butterflies, birds, bees and bats, and steel rectangles holding different species of plants will light up at night to symbolize the nearly 2,000 long-forgotten graves.

In the 1820s, the Navy established the former farmland as a cemetery for sailors who died at the nearby Naval Hospital. Many of the remains were moved to Cypress Hills Cemetery in 1926.

But fragments of bone and coffin are still beneath the ground, making landscapers subject to a deed restriction.



The Naval Hospital Cemetery on Williamsburg Street West has been vacant and overgrown with weeds for decades, but it could become a peaceful park under a new plan.

tion that prevents soil disruption.

"It's a site you can't build on, so the question is: what's the best use for it?" Puryear asked.

A landscape architecture firm created a design that memorializes the historic ground while stimulating ecological growth.

"It's a place for reflection," said co-designer Jennifer Brooks. "Bird watchers, nature lovers, students and families will find respite here. We're treating it as sacred ground."

The Greenway Initiative—which is currently plotting its bike path from Greenpoint to Bay Ridge—said the \$2-million park could be built in 2013, if the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation can secure funding.

City: Pits will fix Gowanus stink

By Daniel Bush
The Brooklyn Paper

The city's latest effort to stanch the stink in the Gowanus Canal is the pits.

Environmental officials unveiled four "green" spaces on Dean Street that will hold onto stormwater during heavy rainstorms so that sewer systems don't overflow, sending raw sewage into the already polluted, foul-smelling waterway.

The drainage ditches near Fourth Avenue in Park Slope are topped with mulch and water-thirsty shrubs to absorb up to 7,200 gallons of runoff during light rain storms.

But at just 80 square feet, the glorified tree pits aren't designed to handle heavy rainfall, according to city planners, the \$16,000 green pits will overflow—rendering them ineffective when it pours.

Still, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Carter Strickland touted the plant-covered holes.

"They are a perfect example of how green infrastructure projects not only help retain stormwater, but also beautify our streets and sidewalks," Strickland said.

Residents were more skeptical.

Diane Jacobowitz said the tree pits weren't likely to make the canal smell any better—or stop her dance studio on Fourth Avenue at Dean Street from flooding during downpours.

"It'll flood the next time [it rains hard]," said Jacobowitz, whose ground-floor business was inundated with water twice in the past year. "There's obviously a drainage problem here."

Supporters of the project countered that it was a small step forward towards improving the water quality in the fetid canal.

"This is a quick and easy first step in the right direction," said Craig Ham-



The city calls them "bioswales," but basically it means that planted areas like these will help collect water so that the Gowanus Canal won't get so poopy. Here, Diane Jacobowitz of Dancewave sashays over to a tree.

merman, the district manager of Community Board 6.

Strickland said the city is planning to install green roofs, rain barrels and more of the landscaped pits to handle 10 percent of the stormwater runoff in the area.

The bioswales on Dean Street aren't the first of their kind in the borough.

Last year, the city gave the Gowanus Canal Conservancy \$580,000 to install a similar system of water-sucking plants along Sixth Street between Second and Fourth avenues.

firm in DUMBO declined an offer from Ratner last year to help produce the plan. "The rational thing to do is to build a 20-story building and test these things out before building a 30-story tower."

Longtime critics of Atlantic Yards slammed the plan.

"It's another despicable slight to the community surrounding the project by eliminating more crucial jobs for residents," said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene).

James and others felt similarly slighted by the notion that a project that was once meant to be an architectural showcase by legendary designer Frank Gehry will now comprise far more mundane pre-fab buildings.

Gehry was fired in 2009 in a cost-saving move.

Ratner's spokesman Joe DePlasco said that the developer will begin to seek financing for the first building, but declined to comment further.



Union members were among the strongest supporters of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project.

But that was when working on the development promised more jobs and better wages.

'Eagle' eyed

Dull newspaper's HQ to be boring apartments

By Kate Briquet
The Brooklyn Paper

A developer wants to raze the squat offices of the Brooklyn Eagle for a new apartment building—but a Brooklyn Heights leader thinks his design is too boring for the neighborhood.

Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, says that Akiva Kobre's L-shaped structure isn't bold enough for the busy corner of Henry and Middagh streets, a gateway to the Heights for drivers exiting the Brooklyn Bridge.

"Given the location, this was a chance to really do something special and cre-



The Henry Street building currently housing the Brooklyn Daily Eagle may be sold to a developer.

corner. It's next to a row of four-story brick buildings with storefronts including Henry's End restaurant and Cranberry's cafe, and across from a former candy factory that's slowly turning into condos; a two-story Cadman Plaza housing development; and a nondescript 27-story residential tower.

The new building—which has one unit on each floor—will be made of rich red brick

and have a stone base. Each floor will boast large corner windows for the living and dining rooms, while the remaining windows will be comparable to the narrower residences on Henry Street.

Kobre is now remaining mum on the project—refusing to release renderings until the design is final, despite presenting them publicly to the community board last week.

"We want to consider what the critics are saying and satisfy their concerns," Kobre said. "I don't want to show anything until we have a sense of what we're going to do."

In the meantime, Stanton's group is pushing for a different facade.

The Heights association certainly has had success in the past; in 2002, Stanton got developer Louis Greco to make his six-story condo at 322 Hicks St. more fashionable.

critics by saying that the building was "respectful" and that "the owners want to be full-fledged members of the neighborhood."

"It's 'Wow' in a more subtle way," Byrns said. "You can say we're knitting together the fabric that exists in Brooklyn Heights."

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Hard-hitting columnist Denis Hamill calls it a “witch hunt.”

Police expert Cynthia Brown calls it “perverse anti-union fervor.”

Tix Fix fuss nothin’ but witch hunt

Mayor, Kelly, Bx. DA abusing power

Yo, Mike, Yo Ray, FIX THIS! We have a city here with a bull's-eye on its back, guns rampant on the streets again, homicides on the rise and serial sex attackers stalking Brownstone Brooklyn.

And now our cops who start at 38G a year as our first line of defense against the really bad guys who want to blow us up again are further demoralized by making it a crime to squash a parking ticket for Aunt Mary?

Are Bloomberg and Kelly going nuts? Is Bronx DA Robert Johnson desperate for headlines?

C'mon, guys, FIX THIS!

Put me at the front of the line to cheer when we bust dirty cops who truly abuse power in this city. I covered the 77th Precinct scandals, the Dirty 30 and the Mafia Cops trial. Those dirty cops deserved to make the license plates that good cops scribble on parking tickets.

Last week in Brooklyn, Detective Jason Arbeeny was convicted of “flaking,” or planting drugs on an innocent man. He should get the max for his crimes and then do the time the poor innocent guy was gonna do so Arbeeny never forgets what it’s like for a human being to live in a cage.

If they convict the 68th Precinct cops busted for smuggling guns into this city hat might’ve been used on fellow cops, they should also max out.

The Mafia Cops should never see another sunrise.

And forget 10 days of lost vacation for Deputy Inspector Anthony Bologna, who pepper-sprayed those defenseless Occupy Wall Street women but who probably couldn’t beat my daughter in a Brooklyn “fair-one.” He should be reassigned to clean Porta-Potties in Zuccotti Park.

But when 16 cops are arrested like common skells for squashing traffic tickets, receiving more negative official comment than some of the real aforementioned abuses, the system is broken.

FIX THIS, fellas.

When I was growing up in pre-yuppie Brooklyn, a neighborhood guy became a cop to help people, for job security, a 20-year pension and a

BY DENIS HAMILL

shot at a 30-year mortgage. No one became a cop to get rich. You didn’t get to play center field for the Yankees but you got to wear the uniform of the best police force in the world.

Sure, a few will always rent their badges for profit. They are called crooks, or “skells,” who should do hard time.

But one of the benefits of The Job, like riding the subway free, was always the unwritten courtesy of squashing a ticket.

“If you do it for family or friends it’s a favor,” a retired NYPD lieutenant tells me. “If you make money doing it, you deserve to be arrested, but it’s a disgrace that they’re arresting these cops. It’s why so many good cops are retiring as soon as they have their 20 in. Morale sucks. I miss The Job; I don’t miss the petty BS.”

Every job has its perks. Back in the day, before my time, we had a guy named Vinny Lee at the Daily News who was the unofficial Assistant Editor in Charge of Tickets. If a reporter got a ticket, Vinny called Police HQ and it vanished like Jimmy Hoffa.

My brother Pete tells me the same thing was true over at the Post. So let’s stop with the hypocrisy in the press.

Same with the mayor and the police commissioner. They can deny it till their meter expires but everyone knows there’s a ticket quota in every precinct. I knew a “summons cop” named Keogh at the 111th Precinct in Bayside, Queens, whose commanding officer let him pick his own hours because he was a one-man ticket blitz who helped make the precinct quota every month. Keogh told me his best stop on the job was a Korean church van where I wrote 12 seat belt tickets.

It’s okay for NYPD to force cops to collect this secret tax for the Sheriff of Nottingham but if a cop squashes a ticket for his cousin he’s a skell?

Nah.

This case is an abuse of power from City Hall, 1 Police Plaza and the

The practice that has lately been described as “ticket-fixing” has, in the words of Mayor Bloomberg, been going on “since the days of the Egyptians,” not only at the NYPD but also in police departments all over the nation and indeed the world. And, it’s important to note, it has never been prosecuted before in New York City. Nobody at the PBA is saying the practice should continue. What we are saying, and what the accompanying articles make clear, is that it is unjust, unfair and hypocritical to criminalize the practice for just a few officers when that practice been condoned for so many years for the benefit of so many, including police brass, politicians and members of the press. The PBA is determined to fight this witch hunt. As PBA president Pat Lynch has vowed: “We will put the full resources of the union to work to vindicate” those police officers who have been made scapegoats.

Bronx DA’s office.

Since the Tix Fix 16 were arraigned, cops have pulled an understandable ticket-writing slowdown, costing our broke city revenue. Add in the cost of the three-year Bronx probe, Internal Affairs wiretaps, a prolonged grand jury session and now adjudicating 16 cops in a city with a \$4.6 billion deficit and you could hire, um, some more good cops.

Preposterous. Counterintuitive. Morale killer.

FIX THIS.
dhamill@nydailynews.com

Give the NYPD a damn break

BE OUR GUEST

BY CYNTHIA BROWN

gained personally from the practice.

The hypocrisy is obvious: Police officers who risk their lives on a daily basis may have to pay with their jobs and pensions for participating in a long-accepted practice. As Lynch said, “A courtesy has now turned into a crime.”

I once worked in the community relations division at a busy police station in a high-crime area in the Boston Police Department, facilitating meetings between residents and patrol officers. Over the three years I was there, I saw those officers’ constant interactions with drug dealers, rapists and gangs. I was continually amazed at the restraint, humor and humanity those officers had.

In the Police Department’s ticket-fixing scandal, rank-and-file cops are being blamed for the harmless practice of letting traffic tickets slide as a favor to family and friends.

If there is a victimless crime, this is it. And yet some are treating this like the latest symptom of a police force gone wild. A New York Times editorial blasted ticket-fixing as “insidious” and called on Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for greater enforcement.

I detect, among other forces at work, the anti-union fervor that has perversely captured the imagination

of some politicians and

pundits: the police union

as corrupt big labor,

intent only on protecting

its members at the public’s expense.

“An attack on unionism,” Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch called it at a rally as the indictments against 16 “tix-fix” cops were unsealed on Oct. 28 in the Bronx.

But while defending his members, Lynch also made clear that he was not there to defend dirty cops. Referring to Officer Jose Ramos, accused of drug-dealing and other serious crimes, Lynch said that he would have turned his back on Ramos during the proceedings — except that doing so would have been disrespectful to the court.

He also pointed out that, as a paramilitary organization, the NYPD follows a top-down structure. If an order had come down, ticket-fixing would have ceased at once.

“Just following orders,” read a sign hoisted by many members who came out to the rally.

Regardless, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson decided to make

sacrificial lambs of a few officers — even though they had not, for the most part,

Ticket-fixing is not a crime

their own safety, going home after a day’s work to weep over the human misery they’d witnessed.

And all, in one way or another, have suffered physically and mentally because they chose a career in law enforcement.

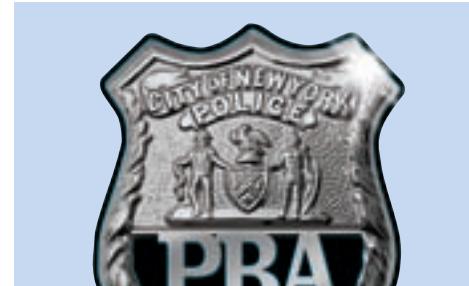
My close contact over many years with people who have chosen to take on the most difficult job in our society has only strengthened my admiration and respect for the work police officers do — and the extraordinary efforts these brave men and women make to protect us from evil and violence.

So I think we all need to take a deep breath, step back and really think about whether we want to make scapegoats of people who have spent their lives

serving the residents of this city, especially since their only crime — in the vast majority of the Bronx cases — was partaking in a practice that Mayor Bloomberg himself said has existed

“since the days of the Egyptians.”

Brown is the publisher of the monthly national magazine American Police Beat and the author of “Brave Hearts: Extraordinary Stories of Pride, Pain and Courage.”



**PATROLMEN'S
BENEVOLENT
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK**

125 BROAD STREET, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10004
212-233-5531

PATRICK J. LYNCH
PRESIDENT